

Discuss the biological attributes of the species that allow it to spread and identify dispersal mechanisms. For example, determine which of the following apply:

- Consistent and prolific seed production
- Rapid growth to reproductive maturity
- High germination rate under a wide range of conditions
- Ability to suppress the growth of other plants by releasing a chemical inhibitor
- Ability to persist as dormant long-lived propagules or underground parts, such as rhizomes, tubers, turions or stolons
- Seed dormancy
- Stress tolerance, including ability to resist herbicides
- Ability to colonize a wide variety of habitats
- Lack of natural control agents
- Well-developed storage tissue (for example, tap root)
- Dispersal by wind, water, machinery, animals, and/or humans

Assign rating as follows:

Rating	Numerical score	Explanation
High	3	Weed has potential for rapid natural spread throughout its potential range in the PRA area (<i>e.g.</i> , high reproductive potential AND highly mobile propagules)
Medium	2	Weed has potential for natural spread throughout a physiographic region of the PRA area within a year (<i>e.g.</i> , it has either high reproductive potential OR highly mobile propagules).
Low	1	Weed has potential for natural spread locally in the PRA area within a year (some reproductive potential and/or some mobility of propagules).
Negligible	0	Weed has no potential for natural spread in the PRA area

Discuss your rationale for the rating and the level of certainty.

RE #3: Economic Impact Rating

Introduced weeds can cause a variety of economic impacts. We divide these impacts into three primary categories (other types of impacts may occur):

1. Reduced crop yield (*e.g.*, by parasitism, competition, or by harboring other pests).
2. Lower commodity value (*e.g.*, by increasing costs of production, lowering market price, or a combination); or if not an agricultural weed, by increasing costs of control.
3. Loss of markets (foreign or domestic) due to presence of a new quarantine pest.

Assign ratings as follows:

Rating	Numerical score	Explanation
High	3	Weed causes all three of the above impacts, or causes any two impacts over a wide range (over 5 types) of economic plants, plant products, or animals.
Medium	2	Weed causes any two of the above impacts, or causes any one impact

